

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00467 121221Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2745

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SIX

REF: ASMARA 466

1. THE FOLLOWING IS KARL DORTZBACH'S ANSWER TO THE LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM THE ELF THIS MORNING. THE LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED BY MESSENGER THIS AFTERNOON:

QUOTE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. 12 JUNE 1974. WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER DATED 10.6.74. BY WHAT YOU SAY YOU MUST NOT HAVE RECEIVED ANY OF OUR LETTERS. WE SEND TO YOU, WITH THIS LETTER, OUR LETTER FROM ALL MISSIONS IN ERITREA. WE REPEAT NOW WHAT WE SAID IN OUR FIRST LETTER TO YOU.

1. WE WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY DEMANDS UNTIL MRS. DEBBIE IS SAFELY RELEASED TO US.

2. NO MONEY WILL EVER BE PAID FOR ANY MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE COME TO ERITREA TO HELP THE PEOPLE.

NOW CONCERNING YOUR LETTER TO US WE HAVE SEVERAL THINGS WE SHOULD HAVE TO SAY TO YOU.

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(1) YOU SAY THAT THE CASE OF MRS. DEBBIE IS DIFFERENT

THAN THAT OF THE TENNECO MEN. BUT WHEN YOU DEMAND SO MANY THINGS YOU SHOW US THAT YOU THINK WE ARE LIKE THE TENNECO OIL COMPANY. EVEN IF WE WANTED TO SEND SO MUCH MONEY, IT IS MORE THAN WE COULD SEND EVEN BY SELLING ALL OF THE HOSPITAL.

(2) YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED BECAUSE 352 ERITREAN PEOPLE HAVE DIED OF CHOLERA. BUT IF YOU WERE CONCERNED YOU WOULD NOT KILL MISS ANNA AND KIDNAP MRS. DEBBIE. BECAUSE OF THESE ACTIONS ALL MISSION CLINICS AND HOSPITALS IN ERITREA ARE CLOSED. NOW THE PEOPLE CANNOT HAVE ANY HELP FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

(3) WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MANY DEATHS BECAUSE OF CHOLERA. GOD HAS CALLED US TO ERITREA TO HELP THE PEOPLE AND WE WANT TO HELP THEM BUT YOUR ACTIONS SO FAR MEAN THAT WE CANNOT HELP THEM.

THESE ARE THE WAYS THAT MANY MISSIONS ARE HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA.

1. CLINICS, HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS IN MANY PLACES: HAICOTA, AFABED, MASSAWA, TESSANT, GHINDA. ALL OF THESE PLACES CAN HELP THE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY WHEN CHOLERA IS BREAKING OUT.

2. IN AFABED THE PEOPLE NOW HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH SWEET WATER FOR THE FIRST TIME. THERE IS A LARGE WINDMILL THAT IS READY TO BE SET UP ON A SWEET WELL, BUT THIS CANNOT BE UNTIL MRS. DEBBIE IS RELEASED AND THE SAFETY OF ALL MISSIONS IS INSURED. THE LARGE DAM CANNOT BE FINISHED BEFORE RAINY SEASON UNLESS NEXT WEEK THE WORK CAN BE STARTED AGAIN. THE WORK CANNOT START UNTIL MRS. DEBBIE IS RELEASED AND ALL MISSIONS WILL BE SAFE.

3. IN GHINDA WE HAD MEDICINE FOR 20,000 PEOPLE TO CONTROL CHOLERA THE WEEK THAT MISS ANNA WAS KILLED AND MRS. DEBBIE WAS KIDNAPPED, WE HAD PLANNED TO GO OUT INTO THE COUNTRY TO GIVE MEDICINE AND INJECTIONS. NOW BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTIONS MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED THAT DID NOT NEED TO DIE.

4. ALL MISSIONS WOULD GLADLY SEND MEDICAL PEOPLE INTO
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THE COUNTRY TO HELP THE PEOPLE. BUT MEDICAL PEOPLE WILL NOT BE SENT OUT AS HOSTAGES AND THEY WILL NOT GO UNLESS THEY MAY GO FREELY INTO THE COUNTRY WITHOUT HARM.

WE ARE NOW ASKING YOU TO RELEASE MRS. DEBBIE IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE US A WRITTEN LETTER ASSURING OUR SAFETY SO THAT WE MAY GO TO GIVE MEDICAL CARE TO THE ERITREAN PEOPLE. WE WANT VERY MUCH TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA. NOW WE MUST ASK YOU A

QUESTION. ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF ERITREA BY
ALLOWING US TO GIVE THEM MEDICAL CARE?

WE HOPE TO HAVE AS YOUR QUICK REPLY 1) THE RELEASE
OF MRS. DEBBIE AND 2) A LETTER STATING THAT NO MISSION WILL
EVER BE ATTACKED AGAIN AND SIGNED IN CLEAR HANDWRITING
BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU (S) MR. KARL DORTZBACH. UNQUOTE.
PERRY

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